SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Harmonic Sonic"

(238-208)

Written By:
David Villaire

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. ROTBOTNIK'S HQ - NIGHT

A pocket of bright light shines out from an open space behind the headquarters. CAMERA PUSHES IN, revealing a huge Rocket Booster which looks like a fat, 100-foot cartridge shell with fins. The Booster is angled upward. Mounted to its nose -- looking like a basketball atop a pencil -- is its huge payload, SKY-SPY: an intimidating-looking spy ship the size of the Rosebowl. Sky-Spy is an iron-beam framework spheroid - Robotnik's "Enterprise," if you will, - whose hi-tech interior is visible through the framework. At the very core of the orb-shaped ship is a geodesic-shaped bridge or control room.

A general high-intensity HUM is heard along with some CLANGING FOOTSTEPS as a few ultra-weird ALIEN-BOTS finish boarding the spheroid from a metal platform. (One has two heads; another has four arms and no legs -- all seemingly from other planets, but all robotic.)

CUT TO:

INT. HQ WAR ROOM - NIGHT

ROBOTNIK in his command chair overlooking the battery of monitor screens. CLUCK nearby watching SNIVELY, who stands before a large monitor displaying the launch area.

ROBOTIC VOICE
Five, four, three, two, one...
ignition.

Snively hits a large, red button which begins to BLINK. A loud RUMBLING is heard as the FRAME SHAKES. Robotnik moves closer to the monitor screen. He's smiling.

SNIVELY
It's a go, Doctor. The spy ship is being boosted to flight altitude.

ROBOTNIK
My "Sky-Spy," Snively. A magnificent sight, don't you think?

SNIVELY
Affirmative, Sir. Magnificent. *

CUT TO:

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - NIGHT

The Booster ROARS off its pad slowly at first, then with its fiery tail BLASTING more and more loudly, it rockets into the smoke-filled sky.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)(CONT'D)
If the Hedgehog only knew what was in store for him. *
(pause)
It warms my metallic heart.

THE BOOSTER

with its payload angles toward the polluted sky. CAMERA PULLS BACK as the rocket Booster separates from Sky-Spy and falls O.S. The ship levels off and soars away. *

EXT. GREAT FOREST - NIGHT

The fiery Booster plummets out of a star-filled sky into the Great Forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE VILLAGE - NIGHT

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Knothole as we hear the Booster CRASHING down through the towering trees beyond a group of huts. The FRAME SHAKES as we...

CUT TO:

INT. SONIC'S HUT - NIGHT

SONIC bolts upright in bed, EYES WIDE as the FRAME SHAKES and a tremendous WHUMP! is heard.

SONIC
What the heck was that?

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE BOOSTER SITE - NIGHT - LATER

The fuming Booster leans nose-upward against a giant tree with another huge tree on the other side.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS (O.S.)
(AD LIB excitement)

CAMERA PULLS BACK to show Sonic, SALLY, ROTOR, BUNNIE, TAILS and ANTOINE -- plus a few other VILLAGERS -- gathered around the huge Booster. Rotor stands next to a tail-fin, his hands feeling the heat that RADIATES from it. Sonic and Sally move in closer as Tails follows next to Sonic.

ROTOR
Careful, Tails, it's hot.

BUNNIE
My stars. What is that thing? *

SALLY
It's a rocket booster. *

SONIC

zips up one side of the leaning Booster and stops on top. He looks into crevices and vent-holes. *

SONIC
Definitely a Robutt-nik war toy.

SALLY

nods as she looks the Booster over.

SALLY
He's up to another one of his evil schemes. *

TAILS *

suddenly points skyward. *

TAILS
Sally. Look up there. *

POV - SKY-SPY IN NIGHT SKY

Seen in some detail, the gleaming orb cruises across the sky. From here it looks about the size of a beachball. *

BUNNIE(O.S.)
Is that some kind of satellite or what? *

NEW ANGLE - THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

stare up as Sky-Spy cruises in the B.G. *

SALLY **
Too low for a satellite, Bunnie.
(pause)
I bet it's some kind of spy ship.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROTOR'S HUT - NIGHT - LATER

A telescope sticks out of Rotor's window, angled upward.

ROTOR (O.S.) *
You were right on, Sally. *

INT. ROTOR'S HUT - NIGHT

With Sonic, Antoine and Sally looking on, Rotor peers through the * telescope.

ROTOR (CONT'D) *
It's loaded with sensors. *

POV - SKY-SPY THROUGH TELESCOPE

Sky-Spy fills the FRAME, looking ominous.

ROTOR (O.S.)(CONT'D) *
Definitely a spy ship. *

ANGLE - GROUP

As Rotor steps away from the telescope, Sonic takes a look. *

SONIC
We're gonna hafta trash it.

ANTOINE

looks skyward.

ANTOINE
But how? It is way up <u>there</u> and we
are way down <u>here</u>.

Sally thinks.

SALLY
I can pick up its signals on my *
compu-radio.

SONIC

leans out of the hut window and looks O.S.

SONIC
Maybe we can do somethin' with the ol' rocket Booster. *

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE BOOSTER SITE - NIGHT - LATER

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the moonlit site, settling on Rotor as he hooks two cables from his "Treadmill Generator" to a large multi-celled Storage Battery on wheels. The Battery, which has a large Charge Meter on it, is set up next to an open panel at the base of the Booster. Sonic stands on the Treadmill's running belt, holding onto a kind of handlebar in front.

SONIC
Slap it to me, Rotemeister.

Rotor grabs a Power Ring from the Hedgehog's knapsack...

ROTOR
Go for warp, Sonic. *

...and SLAPS the GLOWING hoop into Sonic's up-raised hand.

SONIC

releases the bar and cranks his legs into a BLUR on the Treadmill, which HUMS, WHIRS AND CRACKLES with electricity. The rubber treadway SMOKES.

SONIC
(YELLS)
We're cookin' now, baby. Woooeee! *

Rotor checks the Charge Meter dial on the battery. He gives * Sonic a "thumbs up."

ROTOR
Super-charged city, Sonic. Cool. *

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic SCREECHES to a stop on the smoking treadway. The Storage Battery GLOWS and HUMS under its new charge. Rotor grabs two long cable-leads and moves over to the open panel at the base of the Booster. He holds up the ends of the cables.

ROTOR
Now to juice the Booster.

SONIC
Yeah...then...
(take-off gesture)
VA-ROOM! We're outta here.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

CAMERA PUSHES in on a lighted window in H.Q. building.

SNIVELY (O.S.)
Sky-Spy sensors are sending new
data, Sir.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Robotnik turns in his chair to look at an electronic map. Cluck on his shoulder. A red dot PULSES in a green section of a map on a monitor screen. Snively points at the dot.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
We've picked up some electro- *
magnetic radiation coming from the
the Great Forest.

ROBOTNIK
This may be it, Snively.
(pause)
Launch a Stealth-Bot.

SNIVELY
Yes, Sir.

Snively hits a button which BEEPS and glows green.

CUT TO:

INT. STEALTH-BOT UNDERGROUND LAUNCH PAD - NIGHT

A Stealth-Bot ROARS off its angled launch device through the opening in the ceiling.

INT. WAR ROOM

Robotnik leans back, big grin as he pets Cluck.

ROBOTNIK
Now we <u>will</u> find Knothole. Most excellent.

CUT TO:

INT. SALLY'S HUT - NIGHT

Sally sits at a desk, listening to GARBLED STATIC on her Compu-radio. (A combination shortwave radio and computer.) Antoine beside her, pad of paper in front of him. As she dials the radio, a STATIC BURST is followed by a...

ROBOTIC VOICE
(scrambled words)

SALLY
Listen...there.

ANTOINE
What kind of tongue is speaking that funny stuff?

NEW ANGLE

Sally activates her computer. *

SALLY
Nicole, apply voice descrambler.

A series of BEEPS and WHIRS, then a string of scrambled letters appears on the computer screen. SCRAMBLED ROBOTIC VOICE CONTINUES, BUT AT VERY LOW VOLUME IN B.G.

NICOLE
Descrambler on line, Sally.

SALLY

looks closer at the screen where the words are rearranging themselves.

SALLY
(reading)
It says: "Message from Sky-Spy to Robotnik."

THE COMPUTER SCREEN

continues to descramble words as Sally reads.

SALLY (O.S.)(CONT'D) **
"Sensors probing for location of Knothole."

SALLY'S

EYES WIDEN as she stares at the screen. Antoine looks at Sally nervously.

SALLY **
"Sky-Spy." Robotnik is spying on us. Here's some more.

Sally reads as more data fills the screen.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Sky-Spy sensors now guiding Stealth-Bot into the Great Forest."

ANTOINE
Ohh, mon dieu. *

Sally turns to a rope-handle on the wall and yanks it. A loud ALARM BELL CLANGS.

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE SQUARE - NIGHT - LATER

CLOSE ON Sally looking very concerned. CAMERA STARTS SLOW PULL BACK. *

SALLY **
I have bad news. Robotnik's spy sensors are zeroing in on Knothole.

As CAMERA WIDENS, we see that she stands before a group of Freedom Fighters gathered in the square, including Bunnie, Tails, Antoine, Sonic and Rotor. *

SALLY
A Stealth-Bot is on its way. *
(pause)
Any ideas?

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST POND - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Sonic's tennis shoes, his feet churning into a BLUR. WIDEN to see that he holds a Power Ring as he runs on a Treadmill perched atop a flatbed wagon. HUMMING juice travels along wires from the Treadmill into a tall, multi-pronged coiled-tube device which is set up vertically at the edge of a small pond. The device's prongs GLOW yellow as they PULSATE an intense, jagged field of energy. STATIC FIELDS CRACKLE upward from the prongs. Rotor, with pair of binoculars hanging around his neck, stares closely at a meter on the device. He waves at Sonic.

ROTOR
Cool, Sonic. It's juiced. *

Sonic somersaults off the Treadmill and lands next to Rotor. In the distance, an approaching ROAR. Rotor looks up through binoculars.

ROTOR (CONT'D)
Here he comes. *

POV - BINOCULARS

As the Stealth-Bot appears above the tree line, then makes a sharp, banking turn and heads STRAIGHT FOR CAMERA. * *

ROTOR (O.S.)(CONT'D) **
He's locked onto our energy field.

SONIC

grabs binocs and looks through them.

SONIC
Time to eat your lunch, Stealth-Bot.

CAMERA PANS UP where the Stealth-Bot appears amidst the FLASHING lines of jagged ENERGY. It levels off and ZOOMS right toward CAMERA.

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D)
Let's juice, Rote. *

NEW ANGLE

Rotor grabs on behind Sonic, who PEELS OFF like a shot, leaving a flaming trail behind.

CUT TO:

INT. STEALTH-BOT CONTROLS - NIGHT

A large meter on a control panel shows the needle at full tilt. A large red LIGHT FLASHES and an intermittent ALARM BUZZ goes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST SWAMP - NIGHT

The Stealth-Bot is tossed around and enveloped in the PULSATING FIELD of energy whose jagged lines FLASH up to the Stealth-Bot from beyond a clump of trees. With its engines WHINING, it disappears over the treeline. We hear BRANCHES BREAKING, then a SPLASH-CRASH.

SONIC AND ROTOR

SKID up in a clearing and look toward the O.S. crash-site.

SONIC
Way to go, Rote. Scratch one Stealth-Bot.

They high-five.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - BOOSTER SITE - NIGHT - LATER

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the Booster which still leans against the giant tree. Sonic and Tails stand next to the Storage Battery.

SONIC
Ready to motor, Rotor?

PAN TO Rotor who is next to the open panel at the base of the huge Booster. He reaches into the opening and connects some wires. Sally stands nearby holding her computer. A control box with an antenna sits on a stand beside her.

ROTOR
Let 'er rip.

SONIC

looks at Tails, who has his finger poised over a switch on the Storage Battery.

SONIC
Hit it, Big Guy.

Tails hits the switch.

TAILS
Cool.

NEW ANGLE

Juice CRACKLES along the wires into the Booster as Rotor looks up through the Booster panel. A loud electric HUM is heard, then Rotor looks up into the huge tree directly across from the one on which the Booster is leaning. *

ROTOR
You guys ready to rock n' roll? *

PAN UP to see Antoine and Bunnie standing on a high branch.

BUNNIE
We're ready, sugar hog. *

ROTOR (O.S.)
Go for it.

BUNNIE AND ANTOINE

hold one end of a hi-tech rope and tackle set which is anchored to the tree and strapped around the Booster. With their feet propped against a branch, they pull strenuously on the rope. Bunnie's metal muscles bulge and CREAK.

ANTOINE
(straining)
Oh-laa, I am thinking I will blow a caskette.

BUNNIE
(straining)
Sugar, I'm the one who's gonna blow a gasket.

THE BOOSTER

is slowly pulled up straight. A makeshift cockpit -- half of a huge barrel -- is strapped to the Booster at about mid-height. Cables run from the cockpit down to the three fins at the base of the Booster.

SALLY

hits her computer keys.

SALLY
Steady, guys.
(pause)
Nicole, bring up launch-angle data for booster - one hundred thousand pound thrust. **

NICOLE
Searching, Sally. Program accessed.

A hologram of the Booster appears in front of Sally. PUSH IN on hologram as Sally continues to hit the keys. The holographic Booster rotates and the angle of one of its fins shifts. CAMERA PULLS BACK as she looks over at Rotor and Sonic who stand near the fins at the base of the Booster. **

SALLY
Set number three fin at forty degree angle for blast off.

NEW ANGLE

Sonic and Rotor adjust one of the fins.

SONIC
Got it.

SALLY
That's it. Ready for launch. *

CLOSER ANGLE

Sonic and Rotor climb into the Booster cockpit and strap on their safety harnesses and helmets. Sonic leans out, throws "thumbs-up" gesture to the O.S. Sally below.

SONIC
Do it to it, Sal.

SALLY AND TAILS

start the count-down.

SALLY AND TAILS
Five, four, three, two, one...

She throws a switch on her remote control box and the Booster ignites with a ROAR that SHAKES THE SCENE.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Ignition.
(over ROAR)
Good luck, guys!

TAILS
(waves)
Bye, Sonic. Bye, Rotor.

She returns the "thumbs-up."

NEW ANGLE

The Booster lifts off with a mighty ROAR and streaks upward, picking up speed as it rockets through overhanging tree branches into the night sky.

WIDE - GREAT FOREST

As the Booster breaks through the treeline and streaks toward Sky-Spy.

CUT TO:

INT. BOOSTER COCKPIT - NIGHT

Sonic and Rotor high-five as they streak skyward.

SONIC
Way, way past cool, Rote.

ROTOR
We did it! Yesss!

Rotor points downward.

ROTOR
Check it out, Sonic.

POV - MOBIUS FROM ON HIGH - MOVING

Lit by moonlight, it is a beautiful blue and green.

SONIC (O.S.)
Man, that is beautiful. From here you can't even tell Robotnik's destroyin' everything. *

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic and Rotor exchange a look.

ROTOR
We'll get him.

SONIC
He's nothin' but a nothin'.

They tap fists.

EXT. BOOSTER - NIGHT - WIDE

It speeds closer to Sky-Spy which cruises through the sky leaving a thick layer of brown smog in its path. *

SONIC (O.S.)
Man, that junk-heap's pollutin' the air big-time. *

ROTOR (O.S.)
Oh-oh. Problemo. *

SONIC (O.S.)
What's up?

INT. BOOSTER - NIGHT

As Rotor pulls back hard on the throttle stick cutting the engine's power in half.

ROTOR
We're already there. *

EXT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT

The Booster ROARS through the black smoke closer to the iron-beam ship. *

INT. BOOSTER COCKPIT - NIGHT

Rotor and Sonic exchange a WIDE EYED look.

SONIC/ROTOR
(unison)
And there's no place to land! *

EXT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT

As the Booster ROARS on a collision course with the hardened steel beams of Sky-Spy, we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. ORBIT AROUND SKY-SPY - NIGHT

The Booster ROARS close to Sky-Spy then levels off and flies tight to its outer beams. The framework of the orb's surface is made up of widely spaced curved beams that belt the open interior. *

ROTOR (O.S.)
Gotta be some place to land.

INT. BOOSTER COCKPIT - NIGHT

As Rotor mans the controls, Sonic looks down and O.S. The SCENE SHAKES and VIBRATES.

SONIC
Cruise in for a closer look, Rote.

Rotor pulls back on the stick and the FRAME TILTS DOWNWARD.

EXT. SURFACE OF SKY-SPY - NIGHT

The Booster ROARS close to the mid-section of the orb's surface, flying a few yards over a network of steel beams, metal tubes and small sheds.

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D)
Drop into that slot between those beams.

THE BOOSTER

drops lower, following a kind of channel-slot over some beams. The bottom half of the Booster drops into the slot and it SKIPS, BANGS and GRINDS to a SPARKING halt near the...

EXT. MIDDLE OF SKY-SPY'S SURFACE - NIGHT

The dented and smoking Booster sits mid-orb atop some beams whose outside edges are fitted with catwalks. Sky-Spy's interior is laced with contruction beams that hold various machines, buildings, utility structures, cross-beams and spiralling paths. CAMERA PUSHES IN as Sonic and Rotor jump out onto the catwalk.

CLOSER ANGLE

As they crouch behind a metal box and look around.

(NOTE: The entire Sky-Spy sequence happens at night, lit by a bright moon. The beams gleam, shadows are cast, etc.)

ROTOR
(whisper)
Think anyone saw us?

THEIR POV

The place looks deserted and quiet. *

SONIC (O.S.)
(whisper)
Like who? The joint looks deserted.

BACK TO SHOT

They're still looking around.

ROTOR
We couldn't be <u>that</u> lucky.

SONIC
Yeah, somewhere we'll run into Butt-Bots. Guaran-tee.

CUT TO:

INT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT.

CAMERA FOLLOWS as Sonic and Rotor ROAR into view, zipping down the spiralling catwalk. Rotor crouches behind Sonic, holding onto his waist. They're headed toward a one-story techno-shed mounted on a horizontal plane within the orb. Curved cross-beams and erector-set-like contructions surround the path.

THE SHED

As Sonic and Rotor SKID up. The building has metal cones and cylinders mounted on the roof. It also looks deserted. *

SONIC
(whisper)
Whadaya think, Rote?

ROTOR
Dunno 'til we get inside.

Suddenly a low, throaty GROWL is heard. They turn as an...

ALIEN-BOT

jumps INTO SHOT from one corner of the building, blocking their path. The Bot -- squat, grotesque, hammer-headed, iron-spiked hair.

ROTOR
(startled YELL)

ALIEN-BOT #1
(STATIC SCREECH)

SONIC
Man, and I thought the Swat-Butts were ugly.

One of the Bot's eyes WHIRS open wide then FLASHES RED and scans the duo.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON MONITOR SCREEN where we see Sonic and Rotor looking at CAMERA.

SNIVELY (O.S.)
Dr. Robotnik.

CAMERA WIDENS to reveal SNIVELY staring at the screen. Robotnik, in his chair, wheels around.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
A video transmission from Sky-Spy.

Robotnik stares at the screen.

ROBOTNIK
The Hedgehog? How is that possible?

[OMIT] *

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY-SPY SHED - NIGHT

Alien-Bot #1 still looms over Sonic and Rotor who back away slowly.

ROTOR
It's a Surveillance-Bot.

SONIC
Yeah?
(he points at camera)
Yo, Robuttnik. This beachball of yours is goin' down, man. Hard and fast. Count on it.

NEW ANGLE

Sonic and Rotor take off like a shot, ROARING past the Bot and O.S. The Bot turns to see the metal path burst into Sonic's FLAMING TRACKS.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Robotnik glares at the flaming tracks on the monitor screen.

ROBOTNIK
The Hedgehog won't last the night. Snively, alert Sky Spy of their presence.

[OMIT]

CUT TO

EXT. CORE OF SKY-SPY - NIGHT - GEODESIC CONTROL ROOM

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON the orb-shaped glass control room which is belted in steel at the very core of the ship.

ROBOTIC VOICE (O.S.)
This is Sky-Spy control.

SNIVELY (O.S.)
(filter)
Freedom Fighters on board. Capture at will.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

ALIEN-BOT #1A, looking alot like a Swat-Bot - but having four arms and only one eye - sits on the bridge at an elaborate control panel, his long arms reaching out to a multitude of controls.

ALIEN-BOT #1A
Affirmative. Code Three alert.

As the Bot CLICKS some switches, we...

CUT TO: *
[OMIT] *

EXT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT

As a WHUP-WHUP-WHUP SIREN SOUNDS all over the ship, CAMERA PUSHES * IN on a network of steel beams, then PANS along a large horizontal I-beam until it butts up against larger, vertical beam. Sonic and Rotor peek out from behind the beam.

SONIC
Sounds like the word is out. *

[OMIT] *

NEW ANGLE

As two oily, metal tentacles drop INTO SHOT from above and quickly coil around Sonic and Rotor's waists. A long string of green ooze also dangles in front of them. They GASP and look up, WIDE EYED.

SONIC AND ROTOR
(GASP and YELL)

WIDER ANGLE

to reveal ALIEN-BOT #2, a drooling, multi-tentacled, chrome-domed, one-eyed Bot whose two other magnetic-tipped tentacles hold him upside down underneath an upper I-beam. As it continues to drool green ooze, it reels Sonic and Rotor upward along a vertical steel beam.

ALIEN-BOT #2
(gargling ROAR)

SONIC
Hang in, Rote. I gotta teach this drooler some manners.

SONIC

gets his legs WHINING into a BLUR, then zips over to the vertical beam and VA-ROOMS straight up, stretching the tentacle way out behind him as...

ALIEN-BOT #2

REACTS with another ROAR. Sonic circles the upper horizontal beam in a BLUR, wrapping the stretched-out tentacle around the Bot's body and the beam, then shoots out of its grip.

ALIEN-BOT #2
(more ROARS)

SONIC

SKIDS to a halt atop the horizontal beam above the squirming Bot, who is now tentacle-lashed to the underside of the beam. Sonic pulls on the tentacle that's holding Rotor.

SONIC
You okay, Rote?

Rotor is pulled INTO SHOT on the end of the weakly-squirming tentacle. He nods, his EYES WIDE as Sonic pries him loose.

ROTOR
Didn't scare me a bit.
(holds out a trembling hand)
Like a rock.

They tap fists. *

SONIC
Let's check out the town. Maybe we can find somethin' there.

Rotor holds on and Sonic ZOOMS off as we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. SKY-SPY TOWN - NIGHT

CAMERA PUSHES PAST beams and pathways, steel cables and tubes, sheds and component boxes TO where an "erector-set" main-street is located. CONTINUOUS MUSIC and NOISE come from an ORB-SHAPED NIGHTCLUB which swivels gently on a LIGHT-BAR axle. Weirdly shaped, balconied buildings flank the club. *

SONIC (O.S.)
(whispering)
That's the place, Rote.

CAMERA PANS to Sonic and Rotor, peering out from behind large, metal trash bins filled with techno-junk.

ROTOR
For what?

SONIC
For info on Robotnik's sensors.

ROTOR
Yeah, right. You just gonna tool on in there and ask?

SONIC

smiles and eyes the techno-junk.

SONIC
As Sal would say, I have a plan.

WIPE TO:

INT. SKY-SPY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Grotesque, rowdy ALIEN-BOTS stand at high tables in the NOISY, orb-shaped room. A layer of dark smoke wafts through the air. A NEON LIGHT-BAR (the axle on which the room swivels) is 7-8 feet off the floor. A band (drums, horn, keyboard), made up of ALIEN-BOTS, SCREECHES dissonantly on a stage, the orb's ceiling providing a kind of band-shell effect. The door SLAMS open, and...

SONIC-IN-DISGUISE

steps inside and stops. SO DOES THE MUSIC/NOISE. All the Bots glare at him. He wears a "mask" which has a kind of oil-can nose affixed to it. His legs and arms are in weird metal sleeves, and the ten-inch soles of his sneakers are made of layers of tin. His guitar looks like a crowbar with wires stretched from one end to the other, its soundbox being a squat, round tin-can.

SONIC
Can I sit in?

SONIC

ducks as a stool SMASHES against the wall behind him.

SONIC (CONT'D)
I knew you wouldn't mind.

CAMERA FOLLOWS as Sonic leaps up, does a double forward flip up onto the stage, landing in the splits in the midst of the trio. He hits a DOWNBEAT.

ALIEN-BOT #3

who has two heads and dual saxophone noses, glares at Sonic suspiciously.

ALIEN-BOT #3 *
(harsh, nasal)
Better be good, man, or you're tin-
foil.

Bot #3 nods to the others and they WAIL with Sonic. *

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Rotor peeks in through a small, barred window. He SIGHS and * wipes his brow.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - SONIC AND THE "SWINGIN' BOTS"

WAIL a short tune, with Alien-Bot #3 SCREECHING on his twin nose- * horns. ALIEN-BOT #4, a multi-armed, pin-headed Bot with simian features, cooks on the drums. ALIEN-BOT #5, a penguin-like mobster type with a saw-toothed bill, jams on he keyboard. The tune ENDS and there's an eerie SILENCE as he Bot-musicians glare at Sonic, then the O.S. audience breaks out in ANGRY YELLS AND BOOS.

NEW ANGLE *

As a hostile Bot #3 approaches Sonic onstage. *

BOT #3 *
You're terrible, man. The worst.

SONIC *
Yeah? Well you don't blow such a *
hot nose yourself.

The Bot lunges. Sonic side-steps him and the Bot sails O.S. Big * CRASH.

SONIC *
Oops. Gotta watch that first *
lunge, double-dork.

BOT #3 *

[BEGIN NEW] *

gets up off the floor and turns to reveal both his noses are now flattened on the ends.

SONIC
Now <u>that's</u> cool. You look good
dented.

BOT #3
(suspicious)
Where's you gig, man?

SONIC
Spy sensors.

BOT #3
A Brain-Bot, huh. We hate Brain-Bots here.

SONIC
Yeah. Must be a bummer not to have a brain.

BOT #3
I have a brain.

SONIC
Oh, yeah?

BOT #3
Yeah.

SONIC
Bet you can't even answer a dumb question.

BOT #3
Try me.

SONIC
Okay. Where're the spy sensors?

BOT #3
Building 105, South Tower.

SONIC
Cool. You do have half a brain.

[END NEW] *

THE BOT

glares at Sonic, takes a deep breath, then HONKS a TREMENDOUS BLAST which blows Sonic's mask off. The Bot TAKES, then glares. *

BOT #3
Hey! You're bogus! *

WIDER ANGLE

He grabs for Sonic, who zips out of reach and shakes off the rest of his disguise like a dog shakes off water.

SONIC
You got that right, Twin-Beaks. *

The Bot turns and his mouth opens up incredibly wide as he stabs a finger at Sonic.

ALIEN-BOT #3
He's a Freedom Fighter! Get him!

NEW ANGLE

As all the Alien-Bots quickly move toward Sonic, throwing stools and tables out of their way as they MOVE INTO CAMERA and we... *

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. SKY-SPY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Sonic is poised to split as the Alien-Bots move toward him. Suddenly, the Hedgehog puts up a hand like a traffic cop.

SONIC
Yo, hold it! Hold it!

They all stop and stare.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Know what your problem is?
(pause)
You're all ugly. Adios.

Sonic's legs WHINE into a BLUR and he hangs a left, avoiding the approaching Alien-Bots.

SONIC

tears up the curved wall, along the ceiling, back down the wall, circling the orb several times in a BLUR. CAMERA PULLS BACK as the club swivels more and more sharply on its LIGHT-BAR axle.

SEVERAL BOTS

stagger and fall, grabbing air as Sonic VA-ROOMS INTO SHOT, then * out the open door, which SLAMS shut behind him.

ALIEN-BOTS
(general ROARS and
AD LIBS)

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Sonic SKIDS up next to Rotor, who grabs him around the waist. * Angry VOICES still heard O.S.

ROTOR
What'd ya find out?

SONIC
Tell ya on the way. Gotta juice. *

NEW ANGLE

Sonic BLASTS OFF, leaving behind a trail of skid marks which bursts into FLAMES.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT - LATER

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Sonic and Rotor who stand behind a metal stanchion looking down the length of a thick cable. Sonic points down.

SONIC
That's the spy sensor... *

POV

The cable descends through a maze of cross and parallel beams to a tall, metal-beamed structure, looking much like the Eiffel Tower. Sign on bottom says: "BLDG. 150-S." At the top are all kinds of tracking devices, antennas and the long, GLOWING and STATIC-FLASHING, vertical glass tube. *

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D) *
Building 105, South Tower. *

ROTOR

holds a small spoked wheel-rim on top of the cable.

ROTOR
Cool...and here's our ride. *

Rotor slips a pipe through its axle sleeve, grabs one end and Sonic the other.

SONIC
Let's slide, Clyde. *

The push off, slide O.S. and...

DOWN ALONG THE CABLE

where they descend at a dizzying speed through the maze of beams.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY-SPY SENSOR TOWER AREA - NIGHT

Looming large up ahead is the huge tower. CAMERA PUSHES IN on the base of the tower which is surrounded by a tall metal fence. Next to a gated entrance is a metal HOVER-PORT which houses a HOVER-UNIT. CAMERA HOLDS on the Hover-Unit for a moment.

ALIEN-BOT #6

stands guard under a LIGHT near the tower gate. The Bot has three bristly stick-legs, two very long, manacle-tipped arms and a large ball-bearing head with sunken eyes which GLOW green. When a CRASH is heard O.S., the Bot turns quickly.

ALIEN-BOT #6
(hollow WHEEZE)

THE BOT

moves to investigate, sticking close to the fence. Sonic tip-toes INTO SHOT behind it, keeping in step. The Bot stops and as its head swivels 180 degrees to look around, Sonic zips around to the front, out of its sight. When the head swivels front again, Sonic zips back behind it. The Bot moves on, Sonic mimicking his stiff walk.

NEW ANGLE

As the Bot reaches a corner post, Rotor jumps out, hits a casual pose and waves.

ROTOR
Hey. What's up?

The Bot raises its spindly arms and its manacles SNAP open.

ALIEN-BOT #6
(angry WHEEZE)

As it moves forward...

SONIC

leaps atop the fence's horizontal mid-bar, grabbing one of the Bot's upraised arms on the way up.

SONIC
Lock up time, Chrome-Dome.

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic CLAMPS the Bot's hand-manacle to an iron loop in the heavy fence beam, Rotor hops up and HITS a button on the Bot's wrist.

ROTOR
Spring-loaded. That should lock it up tight. *

The Bot THRASHES about, and when it HITS the fence with the other arm, the manacle at the end of that arm SNAPS shut on a thick fence post. Sonic zips behind the Bot along the fence's middle bar to the other manacle and HITS the lock-button.

SONIC
Need anything else? A pillow?
Soft drink?

ALIEN-BOT #6
(enraged STATIC)

NEW ANGLE

Rotor grabs onto Sonic's waist and, with CAMERA PANNING, they VA-ROOM through the tower entrance gate and O.S.

THE SENSOR TOWER

knifes into the moonlit sky. STATIC BUZZES are heard intermittently. Then that familiar WHINING sound erupts as Sonic and Rotor rocket up a large curved beam on one side of the tower. CAMERA PUSHES IN on the top of the tower as Sonic SCREECHES to a stop on the circular catwalk surrounding the STATIC-FLASHING sensor tube.

SONIC
Your call, Rote.

ROTOR
(points)
We've gotta disconnect that main sensor tube.

Sonic looks up.

SONIC'S POV

The long, vertical sensor tube is fitted into a socket that juts up about ten feet off the floor.

SONIC (O.S.)
I knew that.

SONIC

REVS UP, zips along the floor, up the socket cylinder and yanks the tube out.

SONIC (CONT'D)
(as he yanks tube)
Bingo, gringo.

And he ROARS down the other side.

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic SKIDS to a stop beside Rotor, STATIC FLASHES continue to arc within the tube. Sonic drops the tube O.S. then shakes his hands, cooling them.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Whoa, that sucker's hot. Whew-ee.

THE FLASHING TUBE

falls through the steel structure of the tower and EXPLODES on the beams below. Intermittent FLASHES ERUPT that ZAP along the steel beams. Ever-increasing FLASHES and jagged STATIC LINES erupt everywhere.

ROTOR (O.S.)
Yesss!

SONIC AND ROTOR

high-five and...

SONIC *
Are we cool or what? *

ROTOR *
Way past. *

CUT TO:

INT. WAR-ROOM - NIGHT - ROBOTNIK

Robotnik holds the arms of his chair as he stares at the monitor screen. He swivels, a scowl on his face.

ROBOTNIK
What is this, Snively?

NEW ANGLE

Snively steps alongside Robotnik and stares at the screen which shows the LINES OF STATIC FLASHING along the iron beams of the sensor tower and ZAPPING out into the atmosphere.

SNIVELY
(nervous)
I suspect it's the Hedgehog, Sir.

Robotnik glares at Snively.

ROBOTNIK
The Hedgehog?

SNIVELY
Yes, Sir.

ROBOTNIK
Then don't you think it would be wise for you to...
(YELLS, POUNDS his fist)
...stop him?

Snively nearly jumps out of his shoes.

SNIVELY
Yes, Sir. Very wise, Sir.

He turns to go as Robotnik looks back at another monitor screen.

CLOSER ON MONITOR SCREEN

A Stealth-Bot FLASHES onto the screen as it skims over the Great Forest, its powerful SEARCHLIGHT sweeping the trees. The Bot's flight pattern is erratic as it dips and weaves. We hear the EMERGENCY ALARM BEEPING.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
(angry, frustrated)
The Stealth-Bot lost its tracking signal, Snively. Recall it.

SNIVELY

CLICKS a toggle switch...

SNIVELY
Yes, Sir.

Pulls down a goose-neck mike, speaks into it.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
Stealth-Bot 208, mission aborted.

PUSH IN on the Monitor Screen where the Stealth-Bot suddenly banks sharply and turns back as loud, scratchy STATIC sounds are heard.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HUT - NIGHT

Lights are on. As CAMERA PUSHES IN we hear:

SNIVELY (O.S.)(CONT'D)
(filter, static)
Repeat: Mission aborted. Return to base.

SALLY/ANTOINE (O.S.)
(AD LIB CHEERS)

INT. SALLY'S HUT - NIGHT

Sally sits before her Compu-radio listening. Antoine behind her.

SNIVELY (O.S.)
(filter, static)
Return to base.

Sally moves to Rotor's telescope which juts out of the window, and looks into it.

TELESCOPE POV

shows the Sensor Tower area of Sky-Spy. Increased ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY FLASHES all around the tower.

SALLY (O.S.)
Ohmygosh. They did it. The spy sensor is history.

BACK TO SHOT

Sally steps aside to let Antoine have a look. Sally stares skyward out the window.

ANTOINE
Sacre bleu. It looks extrem-ly dangerous.

Sally is worried as she continues to gaze skyward.

SALLY
It's some kind of high-voltage chain reaction. I hope they're heading home.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY-SPY - SENSOR TOWER AREA - DAWN

The STATIC FLASHES radiate out from the steel tower. STATIC NOISE and jagged lines of electricity radiate out from and follow along nearby steel beams and paths. PAN DOWN TO Sonic and Rotor zipping along the tower fence toward CAMERA.

ROTOR
There's our ride home.

HOVER-PORT AT BASE OF TOWER

Sonic and Rotor zip up to the Hover-Port, stopping on a dime next to the Hover-Unit. Rotor HITS a button and its top WHOOSHES open. He jumps in behind the wheel.

ROTOR
We'll cruise back to Mobius in style.

INT. HOVER-UNIT

Sonic does a flip into the vehicle, landing in the seat alongside Rotor. They look at the complex control panel. Sonic looks over at Rotor who is still staring at the control panel.

SONIC (CONT'D)
You're cool on this, right, Rote?

ROTOR
Pretty cool. *

ROTOR

deftly PUNCHES a series of buttons and throws switches. The engines ROAR to life as STATIC FLASHES envelop the Hover-Port and bounce off the Hover-Unit.

SONIC
Let's juice.

THE HOVER-UNIT

SOARS out of the Hover-Port at low altitude, STATIC FLASHES BUZZING all around.

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D)
Way to motor, Roteski.

EXT. SKY-SPY - NIGHT

The Hover-Unit ROARS along the FLASHING surface of Sky-Spy, still at low altitude, dodging jagged STATIC-LINES. Loud THUNDER erupts.

INT. HOVER-UNIT - MOVING

Sonic looks at Rotor who is staring at the control panel again.

SONIC
Yo, Rote...are we gonna go any higher than two feet? *

ROTOR

POPS a panel on the dash and peers in at a series of toggle switches.

ROTOR
It's got turbo-burners somewhere.

SONIC
Whadaya mean, somewhere? Flip 'em all.

CLOSER ANGLE

Rotor FLIPS one of the switches. Windshield wipers and squirters go on.

ROTOR
Oops.

He FLIPS another and a deafening ROAR is heard. Sonic and Rotor are thrown back in their seats as the...

HOVER-UNIT

ROCKETS up and away from Sky-Spy at high speed.

SONIC(O.S.)
Bingo, Babe-eeee!

CAMERA PULLS BACK as the Hover-Unit ROARS skyward. The electrical storm on Sky-Spy now FLASHES throughout the metal structure. The orb VIBRATES and jerks slightly with each new STATIC FLASH. CAMERA SHAKES.

SONIC (O.S.)
Adios, Spy-butt. *

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST - DAWN

The Hover-Unit cruises over the Great Forest and drops down toward the tree line.

INT. HOVER-UNIT - MOVING

SONIC
There's Knothole. Drop the ol' bucket into the slip.

ROTOR
Easier said than done, Sonic.

SONIC
You can do it, Rote. Piece of cake.

ROTOR
Okay, here we go.

He pushes the stick forward and...

THE HOVER-UNIT

drops down below the tree line.

POV - THROUGH WINDSCREEN

As the Hover-Unit descends through the trees, branches SLAP at the windscreen.

EXT. KNOTHOLE VILLAGE TREE - DAWN

CLOSE ON Tails as he looks up and his EYES WIDEN.

TAILS
Wowieee!

He covers his eyes as we hear a loud CRASH O.S., then he looks between his fingers to see...

TAILS POV

of Sonic and Rotor sitting in the bent and battered Hover-Unit cocked downward in the crux of a large tree trunk.

INT. HOVER-UNIT

Sonic and Rotor tap fists.

SONIC
Ugly but cool.

SALLY (O.S.)
Are you guys all right?

They look down.

SONIC
Sure, no problemo, Sal. *
(pause)
What's up?

[OMIT] *

NEW ANGLE

To see Sally and other Freedom Fighters looking up.

SALLY
There's a new "problemo." Sky-Spy is looking a little shaky. *

WIPE TO:

INT. SALLY'S HUT - DAY

Sally and Rotor stand next to Sonic who looks through the telescope.

SONIC
When you're right, you're right, and you're right, Sal.

POV THROUGH TELESCOPE

Sky-Spy fills the screen. It FLASHES and wobbles wildly now, moving along a very eccentric path.

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D)
The ol' Sky-Spy could trash Mobius, big-time. *

BACK TO SHOT

Sally paces. In deep thought. *

SALLY
Somehow we have to <u>guide</u> it down. *
(she stops, looks at the others)
Rotor, what about your Super-Magnet.

CUT TO:

EXT. BADLANDS VOLCANO - DAY - LATER

CLOSE ON Rotor's "Super-Magnet" whose long, steel pole sits in a cart alongside a battery pack. PULL BACK to see Sonic and Rotor beside the cart which is set up on the lip of a burned out volcano. The volcano is filled with charred waste and techno-trash.

CLOSER ANGLE

Rotor is aiming the device's long, electronic pole upward on an angle. Sonic looks up at the O.S. Sky-Spy through a small telescope.

SONIC
The junkball's about to cut loose, Rote.

TELESCOPE POV - SKY SPY IN DISTANT SKY

Sky-Spy's flight path is wildly erratic, drifting closer then farther away, seemingly the size of a golfball one moment, a beachball the next as it zig-zags through the sky. Electricity continues to ZAP out of its framework. *

SONIC (O.S.)(CONT'D)
Get ready to juice it.

ROTOR

pauses as he looks skyward.

ROTOR
Contact.

He CLICKS a switch and the long post of the Super-Magnet turns a bright red. Wavy red LINES of electro-magnetic energy emanate from the device upward. A loud BUZZING is heard, then an even louder RUSH OF WIND.

ROTOR
It's happenin', Sonic. Let's haul some serious haunch.

SKY-SPY

soars TOWARD CAMERA, like its tethered to the end of the wavy LINES of electro-magnetism. It grows larger and larger as...

SONIC

leans back sharply, ready to take off. Rotor holds on behind.

SONIC
Rocket time!

The howling WIND and the SCREECHING IRON of the onrushing Sky-Spy is heard as they BLAST off O.S. in a BLUR of motion and...

SKY-SPY

plummets along the electro-magnetic LINES of the Super-Magnet and SLAMS into the volcano O.S. The deafening CRASH of twisted iron is heard, as we...

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - CLOSE ON MONITOR

Which shows the volcano with smoke rising from it. PAN TO BIG CLOSE SHOT of Robotnik glaring at the O.S. screen, his face eerily lit by its blue glow. Cluck leans forward from Robotnik's shoulder and SCREECHES furiously. WIDEN OUT as Robotnik turns to Snively who stares at the floor, looking scared.

ROBOTNIK
(suppressed rage)
Listen closely, Snively, it could improve your health. The Hedgehog and his band of fools WILL BE ELIMINATED. Is that clear?

As Snively nods and swallows hard.

SNIVELY
Yes, Sir. Very clear, Sir. *

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The Freedom Fighters, including Sonic, Bunnie, Antoine and Tails stand in a semi-circle in the main square. (Rotor not present.) Sonic has a mondo-cowlick, a clump of quills sticking out from the back of his head. Sally stands before the group.

SALLY
By working together we have stopped Robotnik...one more time.

FIGHTERS
(AD LIB CHEERS)

NEW ANGLE - FAVOR SONIC

SALLY (CONT'D)
We owe a special thanks to the courage and ingenuity of Sonic and Rotor.

TAILS
Yea, Sonic! Yea, Rotor! Cool.

FIGHTERS
(more CHEERS, APPLAUSE)
Son-ic! Ro-tor! Son-ic! Ro-tor!

SONIC

bows to the crowd, his hands upraised to quiet the APPLAUSE. He cranes his neck trying to find the absent Rotor.

SONIC
(calls)
Hey, Rote?

SALLY
Where is Rotor?

ROTOR (O.S.)
Sonic, check it out.

ROTOR

arrives pulling a device on a low, flat-bed cart into the middle of the semi-circle. Resembling a futuristic salon-type hair-dryer, it's attached to the Treadmill.

ROTOR (CONT'D)
My latest invention. A nifty quill-styler. Made especially for hedgehogs.

As Sonic inspects it, Rotor TWANGS the Hedgehog's cowlick.

ROTOR (CONT'D)
You could use it, Sonic. All that electricity trashed your "do." *

Sonic smoothes down his quills but they SPRING up again.

ROTOR (CONT'D)
Give it a shot.

NEW ANGLE

Sonic jumps up on the Treadmill, looks at Rotor and sticks his head under the domed "styler."

ROTOR (CONT'D)
Hit it. *

Sonic windmills his legs into a BLUR and the styler HUMS to a start.

THE STYLER

ROARS then SHAKES wildly, vibrating Sonic into a BLUR.

SONIC (O.S.)
(AD LIB YELLS)

WIDEN as the Styler WINDS DOWN and Sonic drops out of the dome, his feet touching back down on the motionless Treadmill. He looks trashed, his quills <u>really</u> sticking out all over the place.

ROTOR
Oh-oh.

Sally reaches up and feels Sonic's spiked quills.

SALLY
Nice quills.

Sonic whips out his mirror, checks it out and...

SONIC
(big SCREAM)

FADE OUT.

<u>THE END</u>